

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159230
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-----022961 222105Z /63

P 222003Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, IN

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: U.S. VISIT OF GOI MINISTER
OF COMMUNICATIONS

REF: A) NEW DELHI 9512; B) NEW DELHI 3247

1. MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS DIVISION AND NTIA USDOC MOST
DISAPPOINTED IN VERMA'S DECISION TO POSTPONE. IMPOSSIBLE
TO REARRANGE SCHEDULE FOR THIRD TIME AROUND SUGGESTED
JULY DATES. SECRETARY KREPS IS VERY HEAVILY SCHEDULED-
IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE
THE LAST CHANGE FROM JUNE 19 TO JUNE 27. SECRETARY
WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FIRST WEEK JULY OR LAST WEEK
AUGUST. SINCE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER IS LABOR DAY
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HOLIDAY SUGGEST EMBASSY SOUND OUT VERMA ON STARTING DATE
AROUND SEPT. ELEVEN. NEED TWO FULL WEEKS TO GIVE

HIM A MEANINGFUL EXPOSURE TO ALL THREE AREAS MENTIONED
REFTEL (A) PARA 5.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY EXPRESS TO VERMA OUR HOPE THAT NEXT

SET OF DATES WILL BE DEFINITE. FYI - MEPD CANNOT IN

GOOD CONSCIENCE REPROGRAM WITHOUT THAT UNDERSTANDING
END FYI. MANY FIRMS HAVE GONE TO RATHER ELABORATE
PREPARATIONS INVOLVING THEIR TOP EXECUTIVES AND
SCIENTISTS. FIRMS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE TAKING
THIS VISIT SERIOUSLY AND ARE NOW DOUBTING THAT MINISTER
FEELS THE SAME WAY.

3. NOW TO AN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT MATTER: MONEY.

NEITHER THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT NOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT
HAS PROGRAMMED FUNDS FOR THIS VISIT, NOR ACCORDING
TO EMBASSY ADVICE REFTEL (B) PARA 3 WAS IF APPARENTLY
NECESSARY. WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY GOI POLICY QUOTE
THAT COSTS OF OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL BE PAID BY GOI
UNQUOTE WAS CHANGED AND WHETHER GOI CAN MAKE AN
EXCEPTION FOR THIS VISIT SINCE PLANNING FOR VERMA'S
VISIT OBVIOUSLY STARTED BEFORE THE CHANGE IN POLICY.
SINCE NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM USG AND SINCE FIRMS WERE
ONLY LUKEWARM TO IDEA OF FINANCING TWO TRAVELERS (NOW
THERE ARE FOUR) IT APPEARS TRIP WILL NOT TAKE PLACE
AT ALL IF GOI DOES NOT SUPPORT VERMA'S TRAVEL. VANCE

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